



Chile basks in mine rescue glory



COPIAPO, Chile (AFP) – Chile beamed with pride yesterday after its flawless rescue of 33 trapped miners captivated the world, as the survivors began to adjust to their new lives in the glare of the media spotlight.

"Our plan worked, that's why we're so satisfied," Mining Minister Laurence Golborne told reporters at the San Jose mine outside the northern city of Copiapo where the drama unfolded.

"If this story was a movie, no one would have believed that this story would have happened as it has now," said Golborne, the public face of the unprecedented rescue effort since its launch back in August.

The first miners were released yesterday from Copiapo's hospital, where all had been taken for check-ups after emerging one by one from the escape shaft on Wednesday to euphoric scenes.

Hospital deputy director Jorge Montes said most of the men were in surprisingly good health given their 10-week ordeal.

Chilean President Sebastian Pinera, who had been at the mine over the 22-hour

rescue to greet the emerging miners, hailed their "miracle" salvation during a visit to the hospital.

He sparked cheers when he suggested they form a football team under one of their number who used to be a professional player, Frank Lobos, for an October 25 game against rescuers and officials.

"The winners will get La Moneda (the presidential palace), and the losers will have to go back into the mine," Pinera joked.

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon meanwhile called the rescue an "extraordinary triumph of human ingenuity and the strength of the human spirit" as he passed his warmest wishes to Pinera.

The miners still wore the dark glasses given to them to protect their weakened eyes when they made the claustrophobic, 15-minute journey up from the underground cavern in the narrow Phoenix 2 rescue capsule.

But they also wore fresh clothes, gray t-shirts and hospital trousers, some in blue bathrobes, and were cleanly shaven -- looking much fresher than the drawn-out

figures who joyously tasted freedom a day earlier.

The miners now have the challenge of charting out a life forever changed by their ordeal. Suddenly, they are household names in Chile and media stars around the world. They have been flooded with requests for interviews, and can even set their own price.

But Omar Reygadas, the son of one of the miners with the same name, said, the men wanted everything to be shared equally.

"The miners have told the authorities they want to set up a foundation. They want it to cover everything (royalties from documentaries, films or books), and to cover all 33," he told AFP.

All but given up for dead, the men survived against the odds on meager rations for 17 days before a drill probe miraculously found them. And they have formed a close-knit bond.

Television stations around

the globe covered their rescue live, while Facebook and Twitter users swapped stories about the miners and newspapers everywhere made them the front-page story turning them into instant celebrities.

Officials said they would seal up the escape shaft at the San Jose mine, which Pinera has placed a symbolic metal cover over, and dismantle the equipment there. Much of it was being tagged for inclusion in a future museum.



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US porn movie shutdown grows after HIV scare

LOS ANGELES, California (AFP) - More US adult film companies suspended production yesterday after a porn actor tested HIV positive, in a growing scare gripping the multi-billion dollar porn movie industry here.

At least two more pornographic movie makers said they had stopped filming, following two major producers on Wednesday who suspended shoots as doctors scrambled to check if anyone else has been infected.

Meanwhile the clinic at the center of the scare -- which comes six years after up to 14 actors tested HIV positive forcing several film firms to close -- said it would take up to two weeks to say who else might have been infected.

On Wednesday Vivid Entertainment and Wicked Pictures, based in the San Fernando Valley north of Los Angeles, the home of lucrative adult movie industry, announced they were suspending production.

Yesterday they were joined by Hustler Video and Digital Playground, and more were expected to follow suit.

"We've halted all productions until we can do whatever we can to find out who this actor has been in contact with,' chief executive Samantha Lewis told AFP, adding: "There probably will more companies coming on board."

She added that the infected actor was male and had not worked on any Digital Playground's films -- adding that she believed he was not infected on a movie set, where checks are made regularly.

"We're hearing that it came from a completely non-industry related situation. We're hoping that that does prove to be true and that we have no worries," she said.

The HIV case, the first in more than a year in the lucrative industry based in the San Fernando valley north of LA, has fueled calls for film companies to force actors in their movies to use condoms.

"How many more people have to be infected with HIV before Los Angeles County

steps in to do its job and protect performers' and the public's health?" asked Michael Weinstein, president of the AIDS Healthcare Foundation.

The clinic which carried out the HIV positive test as part of its serving caring for porn industry workers, the Adult Industry Medical Healthcare Foundation (AIM), meanwhile said it was working as quickly as possible.

"At this time, it is impossible to know if the patient acquired the HIV virus from private conduct or on-camera activity," it said in a statement.

"The industry is behaving responsibly and cautiously, as it always has, by placing a moratorium on filming any person one or two generations removed from sexual contact with the current patient.

Venezuela says no to extradition of suspected ETA trainer

CARACAS, Venezuela (AFP) - Venezuela said yesterday it would not extradite an alleged trainer for the outlawed Basque separatist group ETA to Spain but would investigate his links to the group.

Spain formally requested the extradition of Arturo Cubillas on Wednesday, saying two alleged ETA militants had identified him as having been their trainer in the South American country in 2008.

Attorney General Luisa Ortega said Cubillas was a naturalized Venezuelan citizen who could not be extradited under the country's constitution.

The attorney general's office said in a statement that it would "carry out all the necessary formalities in the investigation" of Cubillas' alleged links to ETA and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC).

Protesters stage world anti-dolphin slaughter rally



MIAMI, Florida (AFP) - About 100 demonstrators, including Oscar-winning documentary maker Ric O'Barry, gathered yesterday outside the Japanese consulate in Miami in one of a series of rallies around the world to protest Japan's annual dolphin slaughter.

O'Barry, an American activist who won an Oscar for his documentary "The Cove" about the traditional dolphin round-up in Taiji, Japan, said the chain of protests would catch Tokyo's attention.

"I'm optimistic because if enough people protest around the world the Japanese government will be forced to stop issuing permits to do this," O'Barry told AFP.

"The problem is in Taiji, but the solution is in Tokyo, where the permitting process is. They are issuing permits to kill dolphins to sell the food to the Japanese people."

Similar rallies outside Japanese consulates and embassies were planned across Asia, Europe and the United States. Protestors displayed gruesome photos of the Taiji slaughter, where mortally wounded dolphins writhe in a sea of blood.

"All animals have their own emotions. Dolphins we know to be one of the most intelligent in the world, next to elephants and chimpanzees," said animal rights activist Claudia

Emerson, demonstrating with three others outside the Japanese consulate on New York's Park Avenue.

Edda Ness, a lawyer, said the Japanese dolphin slaughter might be a tradition, but that didn't make it right. "Stoning people to death -- you could say that's an old tradition," she said. "That argument doesn't hold any moral weight."

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Gays-in-military ban should stay in place, says Justice **Dept**

WASHINGTON, (AFP) - The US administration yesterday demanded a judge stay a ruling which would lift the ban on gays serving openly in the US military, as it prepares to appeal the decision.

The Justice Department said it was applying "for an order staying the application of the court's entry of a permanent injunction in this case pending appeal."

On Tuesday a California federal judge ordered the US government to immediately suspend the policy, known as "Don't Ask, Don't Tell."

District Judge Virginia Phillips ordered the injunction preventing US authorities from enforcing the policy, which requires gay and lesbian service members to stay quiet about their sexuality, or face being

Critics say the law, a 1993 compromise aimed at resolving a long-thorny issue, violates the rights of gay military personnel and has harmed US national security by forcing out some 14,000 qualified troops.

President Barack Obama has ordered a year-long review of the implications of ending the ban, which is due to be completed in December and which will help draw up new rules of military service.

Interesting course for parents and professionals who work with mentally challenged children

Sonrisa's Parents association announces that it is organizing an interesting course for parents with mentally challenged children and professional who work with those children. Sonrisa is an association of parents, family and friends of people with mental limitation. Sonrisa was created in 1990 and is an organization that depends of donations, fundraisings and contributions.

Its goal is to work for the rights of the people with mental limitations. At the moment Sonrisa has five important priorities: Information to fami-Information to the



Community, Learning, Services and Work

> The course will last one week, and there will be two Dutch professionals invited to give attendees lots of information and ways to communicate better with a child with mental limitations. The two are experts in the fields of orthopedagogy therapy and sexology.

> Orthopedagogy is a pedagogical discipline that is aimed at an entire action field. It does not target the child with handicap, but the entire problematic educational situation (PES). Orthopedagogy is the scientific study of assistance given to those

concerned with a PES - namely, the child, parents, brothers and sisters, grandparents, and so on.

Sexology is the scientific study of sex. A sexologist interests in understanding what people do sexually and how they feel about what they do. A sexologist learns about the broad spectrum of human sexual behavior and the many factors that influence people's behavior and feelings about their sexuality

The two Dutch professionals have many years of experience and even have written books on their studies. They also produce materials to teach children with mental limitations on what they may or may

Parents interested in attending the course can contact Sonrisa at tel. 583-6297

This Saturday for youngsters between 15 and 18 years: Virtual Sculpture workshop by artist Ryan Oduber



ORANJESTAD – The Aruba Archaeological Museum and the Rancho foundation have joined forces with Ryan Oduber and are now offering a workshop of wide variety for youngsters between the ages of 15 and 18 years

The workshop starts this Saturday, October 16 at the Aruba Archaeological Museum, in Schelpstraat 42, right behind Kong Hing Supermarket in Havenstraat. The workshop will last five (5) consecutive Saturdays; from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Participation fee is only Afls. 10 per person. Seatings are limited.

Ryan Oduber is a local artist who showcases visual art, of his own, other Aruban professionals as well as international artist. In other countries art plays an important role in the community. For the renovation of Rancho, art must play an important role.

Ryan Oduber, together with Museum employees and Rancho foundation will give guidance in the renovation process; explore the different unique forms of architecture and the history of Rancho. Together with Melisa Richardson he will guide the youngsters in creating artworks of clay, which will be later created into a 3D virtual art. The scale models will be used in the sculpture part of the renovation of Rancho.

Inscription for the workshop can be done at the counter of the Archaeological Museum; Last day of inscription is today, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. For more information readers may call tel. 582-8979.

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Jolie battles to film directorial debut in Bosnia

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Hercegovina (AFP) – Hollywood star Angelina Jolie yesterday battled to convince Bosnian authorities to allow her to film a war-time love story after they revoked the licence for her directorial debut.

Sarajevo's Scout Film which works with Jolie on the movie said it had submitted the script to the culture ministry of the Muslim-Croat federation after claims it involved a relationship between a rapist and his victim.

"I brought them the script and I am waiting for a positive response as soon as possible," Scout Film's Edin Sarkic said.

War victims were outraged after reports in local media that it described a love story between a Muslim victim and her Serb rapist.

"They no longer have the authorisation to shoot in



Bosnia. They will have it if they send us the script with a story which will be different from what we have been told by people who read it," Gavrilo Grahovac, the Culture Minister of the Muslim-Croat federation -- one of the two entities in post-war Bosnia -- told Bosnian radio Wednesday.

Sarkic told AFP that there was no such story line.

Back Then



Arubans back then showed their innate skills in ways we rarely see these days.

Stone walls and cactus fences are just two examples of creative ingenuity that have held on throughout the years. Of course, just a glimpse of Carnaval supports the fact that creativity has not died with the onset of today's impersonal technologies.

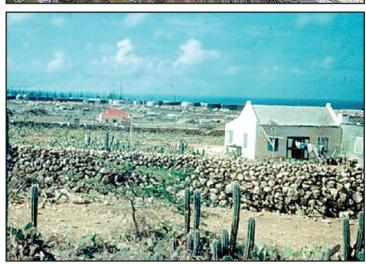
Taking advantage of limited resources, they built exotic boundaries to protect their privacy and properties from free-roaming herd of goats. Cactus fences and stone walls are an integral part of the countryside though development of malls, businesses and more homes have taken over considerable stretches of land. Still highly visible, however, they are great camera shots as one drives about the island.

The cactus fence, called trankera in Papiamento, the language of Aruba, and it is considered a language and not a dialect, are built from the straight upright cadushi. Placing them tightly next to each other, they will take root with little irrigation and continue to grow higher and more dense over the years. This prickly guard repels unwanted visitors of the two-foot, four-foot or creeping kind. Welcome creatures such as the iguana and other assorted lizards do not consider the cactus fence a barrier to their wanderings.

Goats, however, with their unlimited appetites, are not appreciated by those who carefully plant gardens for their beauty and for food for their families. With the introduction of the desalinated sea water in the late 1950's, gardens have bloomed as have the goats. And while it is traditional to have them out and about, the vegetation survives more fruitfully by keeping them off the premises.

Stone walls, *transhinan*, are most often constructed with in-





dividual stones of light greybrown limestone which can be found island wide. Aruba is a very stone-y island. The porous material makes it easy to fit the stones without the use of cement! Hopefully, the tradition will continue. Each piece is carefully chosen for weight and size, then placed and turned until they form a solid wall.

Another stone material used is the quartz diorite, black and white speckled rock which can be seen in gigantic forms in the natural rock gardens at Casibari and Ayo and in the Arikok National Park.

In the 1800's, farmers used the stone walls to keep the soil from washing away or being blown away by the constant tradewinds which cool the island and to mark the various crops which included aloe, long beans and peanuts. On hillsides, low walls form terraces for such crops as corn to retain water within the areas and for newer crops such as melons and pumpkins.

21st century technology cannot replace the imaginative way natural resources were use to create the way of life back then



Minister Michelle Hooyboer-Winklaar:

The Aruba government is very happy with the support of Foundations in the fight against child abuse





ORANJESTAD – Recently, Minister of Social Affairs, Economic Affairs and Culture Michelle Hooyboer-Winklaar did the honors of cutting the ribbon, at the official opening of the Lisette Gomes Foundation in Ponton. The foundation's aim is to fight child abuse and neglect.

The minister congratulated the foundation members, but at the same time she lamented the necessity for these kinds of foundations on our island. She wished there were not so many child abuse cases on our island.

The minister had words of praise for Lisette Gomes, who is the mother of two abused children a case that was recently covered in all local news. Today, due to her fight and perseverance the foundation came to life and now many more cases of child abuse is coming to the surface.

The fight against Child Abuse is one of the top priorities on the Minister's list. She has already reunited with the different departments that treat these sad cases. By joining forces and creating a good communication relationship, we can help protect our children better.

Foundations such as the Lisette Gomes Foundation doors are always open, and volunteers are ready to help with preventing such cases, and also to give guidance after an abuse case.



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Aruba Tourism Authority honors special guests



Recently, the Aruba Tourism Authority honored Ms. Jean Bishop, Mr. John and Mrs Patricia Foster and Mr. Bruce and Mrs. Cookie Brown Paige as Goodwill Ambassadors of Aruba. The distinction is bestowed on visitors who have been coming to Aruba for 20 or more consecutive years. The honorees expressed to be very happy with this recognition. Aruba Tourism Authority associate Ricardo Croes handed them a certificate as a 'thank you' gesture for their love and loyalty to Aruba.



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Sci-Tech

German scientists unveil self-driving car



The driver less car "Made in Germany" (MIG), which from the outside looks like a regular Volkswagen Passat with a camera on top, is being put through its paces at Berlin's disused Tempelhof airport

BERLIN (AFP) – Scientists in Germany unveiling the latest self-driven car this week said the days of humans behind the wheel are numbered and that their technology can slash accidents and help the environment.

"In the future it will be forbidden for safety reasons for people to drive cars," predicted Raul Rojas, professor at Berlin's Free University (FU). "The cars of today are the horses of yesterday."

"In five to 10 years the

technology could be applied in private areas like airports, factories or warehouses. On motorways ... in 10-20 years," Rojas told reporters. "In cities the obstacles could be removed in 20-30 years."

The car, dubbed the "Made in Germany (MIG)" by the FU, uses cameras, laser scanners, heat sensors and satellite navigation -- even in tunnels -- to "see" other vehicles and pedestrians and respond to traffic lights.

The technology will sharply reduce the number of cars on the road because people will no longer need their own vehicle so much, using instead driverless cars pooled in car-share schemes, the MIG's developers believe.

"Autonomous cars are the real 'green' cars," Mexicanborn Rojas said. "We could use a fraction of the cars that we now have.

"If China and India want the same level of mobility as us, then the world is not big enough. The only real solution when it comes to sustainability and preserving resources is car-sharing."

According to the World Health Organisation, more than a million people are killed in road accidents worldwide every year and 50 million more are injured. Driverless vehicles can slash this, their proponents say.

"Cars that use sensors to recognise other vehicles, pedestrians and bikes will in future drive more safely than people who lose concentration and get tired," the FU said.

"The car has more information at its disposal than a human does now. A person can only see in front. This car can see in all directions at a range of 70 metres (yards),"

said Rojas.

Auto industry analyst Ferdinand Dudenhoeffer agreed that the technology could help reduce accidents if it comes to fruition but he is sceptical about the benefits for the environment.

"The various pilot projects around the world look interesting but it remains to be seen whether they will really turn out to be reliable," Dudenhoeffer told AFP, adding: "Climate protection is secondary."

A human being was inside -- but only in case things went wrong. Nothing did, with the car stopping while a couple with a pram crossed the road, or steering around a parked car -- all without human intervention.

It is by no means the first self-driving car, however.

Scientists at Germany's Braunschweig last week demonstrated a driverless car called "Leonie" in real traffic conditions, while other road tests have been conducted in Italy and elsewhere.

US technology giant Google said this week that its driverless cars -- but also with a human inside -- have already travelled 140,000 miles (225,000 kilometres) around the San Francisco Bay area.

Engineers working with both Google and Berlin's FU took part in 2007 in the DARPA Urban Challenge organised by the US government, involving driverless cars developed by 35 teams from around the world.

"Back then it was just a competition in California. Now it's a global race, and this time on real roads with a much greater degree of complexity compared to 2007," Rojas said.

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Facebook joins forces with Skype

WASHINGTON (AFP) – Skype and Facebook joined forces Thursday to let users of the popular Internet communications service chat with their friends on the booming social network.

The new Skype version 5.0 for Windows includes a Facebook tab and integrates Facebook's news feed and phonebook into Skype, the

Luxembourg-based Skype said in a statement.

Skype users can call Facebook friends directly on mobile or landline phones, send SMS messages or make free Skype-to-Skype calls to Facebook friends who are also Skype users, it said.

They can also post status updates to Facebook that can be synched with Skype "mood" messages and comment on Facebook friends' updates and wall posts.

"We're working with companies such as Skype to make it easy to find your friends anytime you want to connect," said Ethan Beard, director of the Facebook Developer Network.

Skype on Thursday also added a new group videocalling feature and "automatic call recovery," which helps reconnect calls interrupted due to Internet connection problems.

Skype said video-calling accounted for approximately 40 percent of all Skype-to-Skype minutes in the first half of the year.

Texting tops with US teens

SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) – Market tracker Nielsen Co. on Thursday released a study confirming what many US parents already knew: teens love to use mobile phones to swap text messages.

"If it seems like American teens are texting all the time, it's probably because on average they're sending or receiving 3,339 texts a month," Nielsen said in a release accompanying a study based on monthly mobile phone bills.

"That's more than six per every hour they're awake."

Nielsen analyzed data from more than 60,000 US mobile phone service subscribers in April, May, and June "No one texts more than teens," Nielsen said, pegging the top texting age bracket at 13 to 17 years old. "Especially teen females."

Girls sent or received an average of 4,050 text messages monthly, while boys averaged 2,539 texts, according to the study.

Mobile phone users ages 18 to 24 years old were a distant second place, typically exchanging 1,630 text messages monthly or a "meager" three texts per hour, Nielsen said.

The ability to exchange text messages has replaced safety as the top reason teenagers get mobile phones, according to the study.

Health & Living

Virus that causes genital warts linked to oral cancer: study



WASHINGTON (AFP) -Mouth and throat cancer could be caused by the virus that causes genital warts and cervical cancer, and it could be spreading through sex and French-kissing, a study published Wednesday says.

"In addition to the known oral cancer risk factors -smoking, drinking alcohol and chewing betel nuts -papillomavirus human (HPV) has been added to the list," the study published in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Emerging Infectious Diseases report says.

HPV has been documented in many cases of oropharyngeal squamous cell cancer, which is on the rise, and the study suggests that the increase in these mouth and throat cancers could be caused by infection with the virus that causes genital warts and cervical cancer.

They also suggest that the rising incidence of oral cancer could be due to changing sexual behaviors.

Oral sex has become more commonplace and people have more sex partners and have sex earlier in life -- all behaviors linked to HPV-related oral cancers, the study said.

authors, Torbjorn Ramqvist and Tina Dalianis of the Karolinska Institutet, cited earlier studies and their own research using the Swedish Cancer Registry, in writing up their findings.

"In a recent study... it was shown that the risk of developing oral HPV infection increased with increases in lifetime oral or vaginal sex partners," they said.

"It has also been reported that ... open-mouthed kissing

was associated with the development of oral HPV infection," they said, citing the results of a study that looked at 542 US students.

"We suggest that we are encountering a slow epi-demic of mainly sexually transmitted HPV-induced" oral cancers, the report said.

Oropharyngeal cancers caused by HPV are the second most common cancer linked to the virus, and their incidence is increasing.

The researchers observed that cases of throat and mouth cancer are rising in Britain, Finland, the Netherlands, Sweden and the United States, especially among young people, and more often among men than women.

The researchers urge the scientists to study the effects of the HPV vaccine available to girls and women on oropharyngeal squamous cell cancers.

If the vaccine is found effective against mouth and throat cancer tumors, health officials should consider expanding the universe of patients vaccinated against HPV infection to include boys and men, they said.

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IVF births result in taller children: NZ study

WELLINGTON (AFP) -Children born using in-vitro fertilisation (IVF) are likely to be taller than their naturally conceived counterparts, New Zealand researchers have found.

The study by Auckland University's Liggins Institute found IVF children conceived from fresh, rather than frozen, embryos were about 2.6 centimetres (1.02 inches) taller than non-IVF children by the age of six.

The research, which examined about 200 children, found the height difference was statistically significant, even after adjusting for variables such as the parents'

Liggins Institute director Wayne Cutfield said the phenomenon was most striking in girls.
"At this stage, we don't

know what the catalyst for that is," he told Radio NZ on Thursday.

Cutfield said appeared IVF children from fresh embyros had a different hormone profile to regular children, which could promote growth.

This could be caused by the drugs mothers took to induce ovulation during the conception process or by the culture medium the embryos were developed in for 36 hours before being transferred to the womb, he said.

Cutfield said another possibility was that medical workers simply picked the largest, most developed embryos because they were most likely to survive the IVF process.

He said the study showed the need for more research into children born through IVF, which has assisted in up to four million births globally over the past 32 years.

"There's been remarkable little research done on IVF children," he said.

"There's been several studies that have looked at intelligence and cognitive func-

tion that havent shown any differences with IVF. This is the first study that's looked very precisely at growth resultation and metabolism.'

Cutfield was sceptical about previous studies suggesting IVF children were more prone to conditions such as asthma and arthritis, saying the finding could be

explained by other factors. Within the IVF cohort, children are more likely to be born particularly small at birth, they are more likely to be born premature, there are more likely to be twins and triplets," he said.

"They're all groups of children who are likely to have greater health problems and you need to be able to adjust for that."

British scientist Bob Edwards, whose pioneering work made possible the birth of the first IVF baby Louise Brown in 1978, was awarded the Nobel Prize for Medicine this month.



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Scantily dressed Chinese women distribute questionnaires to pedestrians for a campaign on breast cancer awareness, in downtown Zhengzhou, north China's Henan province on October 12, 2010. An increasing taste for Western-style junk food and unhealthy lifestyles have caused the rate of breast cancer among urban Chinese women to jump sharply over the past decade, a state-run newspaper said. (AFP PHOTO)

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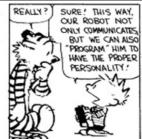




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Finance

UN says United States owes 1.2 billion dollars

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) - The United Nations is owed 4.1 billion dollars by member nations with the United States accounting for more than a quarter of the figure, a top UN official said yesterday.

The global economic crisis has caused the new financial troubles at the world body, Under Secretary General for Management Angela Kane told reporters.

"It has been a difficult

year in many ways for many member states because of the economic recession," she said. "They have to tighten their belts."

Kane said the United States was the biggest non-payer, while Chile, Iran, Mexico, Venezuela accounted for nine percent of the arrears between them and another 68 countries made up three percent of the missing money

US trade deficit swells amid record China gap

WASHINGTON(AFP) - The US trade deficit ballooned in August as the gap with China hit a fresh record, official data showed yesterday, suggesting further weakness in the economic recovery.

The Commerce Department said the August trade deficit rose nearly nine percent from July to 46.3 billion dollars.

That was far worse than economists predictions of a 44.5 billion dollar gap.

Despite exports of goods and services edging up to a two-year high, imports jumped even higher.

"Our exports barely budged but we bought a lot more of just about everything including food, consumer goods, vehicles, capital goods and industrial supplies," said Joel Naroff of Naroff Economic Advisors.

Imports increased 2.1 percent from July, to 200.2 billion dollars, while exports edged up only 0.2 percent, to 153.9 billion dollars.

The August trade deficit was the second biggest since October 2008 when the global financial crisis accelerated, and confirmed a trend of widening gaps that began in mid-June 2009.

The strong surge in US demand for imports, despite a weaker dollar, could lower widespread expectations the Federal Reserve will resume major asset purchases to boost the recovery.

"The US is sucking in lots

of goods from the rest of the world, which supports the case that monetary policy has already accomplished its job of reviving domestic demand," said Brian Wesbury, chief economist at First Trust Economic.

The US surplus in services, a key trade strength of the world's largest economy, shrank for the third consecutive month as imports of services reached a record high.

Americans' dependence on foreign oil and appetite for imported consumer goods once again caused imports to swell.

In August, exports of goods were virtually flat, while imports of goods jumped 3.9 billion dollars to 166.7 billion.

The department downwardly revised the July deficit to 42.6 billion dollars, from an initial report of 42.8 billion dollars.

The politically sensitive gap with China expanded eight percent, to 28.0 billion dollars wiping out the previous record of 27.9 billion dollars set in October 2008.

The United States has long criticized China's currency policy, accusing Beijing of keeping the yuan undervalued to gain an unfair trade advantage.

The monthly trade report came on the eve of the scheduled release Friday of the US Treasury Department's assessment on currency manipulation

WTO official eyes trade rules on fossil fuel subsidies

GENEVA (AFP) - A senior World Trade Organisation official said yestersday that hard thought must be given to WTO-enforced restrictions on multibillion dollar subsidies for polluting fuels such as oil and coal.

"Fossil fuel subsidy reform is undoubtedly one of the major tools in the hands of the international community to fight climate change," WTO Deputy Director General Harsha Vardhana Singh said at a conference hosted by the organisation on the issue.

"Reflections on the link between trade and climate change, and on the eventual role of the WTO rulebook on an issue such as fossil-fuel subsidies, must take place," Singh told the meeting.

"We must prepare ourselves intellectually for the moment when we may be required to act," he added, warning that "much brainstorming remains to be done."

Leaders of the G20 group of emerging and developed nations agreed in September 2009 to a US plan to work toward phasing out some government subsidies for fossil fuel blamed for global warming, a joint statement said.

However, the issue is highly contentious and complex, with subsidies taking a range of direct and indirect forms including tax breaks, credit or insurance support, as well as incentives for producers and consumers, while several emerging and industralised nations are reluctant to shed them.

"The magnitude of fossil fuel subsidies to producers and consumers could reach over 700 billion dollars a year," said Steven Stone, chief of the UN Environment Program's (UNEP) economics and trade branch.

Nonetheless, economists and environmentalists at the conference stressed that reforming fossil fuel subsidies was essential to end distortions on energy markets and to price in the environmental costs and allow alternative clean energy sources to compete.

US denies distorting airline market by financing Gulf planes

DUBAI (AFP) - The US Export-Import Bank denied oyesterday distorting the aviation market by providing Gulf carriers with credit support to buy US-made aircraft, as US and European airlines complain of unfair competition.

"I don't see it that way," Ex-Im Bank chairman and president Fred P. Hochberg told reporters in Dubai.

"We exist as export-import banks to take out market distortion ... I don't see that there is a distortion," he added, arguing that export agencies fill a financing gap as private banks are reluctant to provide loans to finance exports.

"We are here to promote exports and jobs," he said. Ex-Im Bank and European export credit agencies "only step in when the private market is not there" to provide finance, a situation that has been intensified by the global credit crisis.

Carriers in Europe and the United States have voiced discontent about the advantages enjoyed by rival foreign airlines, with the head of Air France calling this week for Europe to be protected from fast-growing Gulf carriers.

"Europe is at the crossroads of international air travel, and this is a role we need to value and defend," CEO Pierre-Henri Gourgeon said

In addition to the guarantees, Gourgeon charged that carriers like Dubai's Emirates enjoy tax exemptions and subsidies from the government, a charge denied categorically by Emirates.

In the United States, the Air Transport Association of America has reportedly outlined concerns over finance made available to rival carriers, claiming it allows foreign airlines to spend more on aircraft purchases.

Emirates has reportedly availed itself of an Ex-Im Bank guarantee for bonds worth 414 million dollars (296 million euros) to buy three Boeing 777 jets last year.

"There are a lot of countervailing forces in terms of the aircraft industry, from the manufacturers to the airlines," Hochberg said in

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Dubai, where he stopped during a Gulf tour that included Riyadh and Abu Dhabi.

"That is under discussion now to find the most equitable way of dealing with it," he said.

Emirates is the national carrier of Dubai, one of seven emirates that make up the United Arab Emirates. Established in 1985 with just two leased planes, the carrier now boasts a fleet of 137 aircraft, flying to 100 destinations in 60 countries.



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Post Aruba N.V. feted Shon Le with his 25 years of service







Recently, Leandro "Shon Le" Petrochi celebrated his 25th anniversary working with Aruba's postal service, Aruba Post N.V. Director Kees van Nederkassel, management and family members all came together on this special day to celebrate with Shon Le.

Shon Le started working on October 11, 1985 as auxiliary postman. He worked in all the different departments before settling down in the delivery department. In September 1, 2006, when the Aruba Postal Department became Aruba Post N.V. he handed in his Government Official status and continued working with Aruba Post N.V.

At present he occupies the post of Senior Group Leader of the delivery department.

Shon Le is a jolly and very sociable person, very dedicated to his work.

Management and staff of Aruba Post N.V. extend their heartfelt congratulations to him.

Gold Coast Aruba: This is the time to invest

Managers of Gold Coast Aruba, the island's newest and most innovative gated community, report that sales are picking up nicely as the global economy begins to recover and those with a bit of disposal income are looking to invest in a sure thing. Gold Coast Directing Manager Fito Croes has noticed a surprising percentage of owners are barely using the villas or town homes they purchase, but taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their "home away from home" in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," he remarked, "but I am gratified by how many are buying because they felt secure with real estate investment on Aruba. They really study the history and economy of the island and are impressed with the political stability and continually increasing value of prime locations. Gold Coast is in the heart of Malmok, considered Aruba's most exclusive community; in this area, the value of properties has only increased over time. It is minutes to the best beaches and all the action, and yet offers a quiet and secluded getaway; we are very pleased by

the response to our concept."
Fito, with his sister Mayrin and brother Rudy run Cas Bon, which has been constructing homes and building developments for all budgets for nearly twenty years. "Gold Coast Aruba is the jewel in our crown," observes Fito. "We were very excited about this project; the scope and amenities. We talked to countless island visitors to find out what they would really want in a permanent residence on Aruba, and took from there."





Input from frequent vacationers who dreamed of their own home in Aruba will eventually be a community of 260 town homes, villas and condominiums with a stunning clubhouse complemented by two additional pools decks, one of which has been open for a year, the other will be ready for the holidays 2010. They expect the clubhouse to be ready for the community with a workout room and spectacular facilities by the end of

homes. An elegant and chic standard package is available, or island designers will assist owners in finishing the décor to their specific tastes.

There are many aspects to purchasing property; not the least is the future value of the investment. To further enhance this, Gold Coast managers have inaugurated a number of in-house services and are now negotiating with Interval International to provide a huge international pool



2011. It will also house a restaurant and mini-market.

Owners who purchased upon the groundbreaking only a few short years ago, are already enjoying a nearly 50% appreciation on their investment, particularly those taking advantage of the management association's rental service, There is always a great demand for Aruba and facilities such as those at Gold Coast, making it easy for some owners to earn their mortgage payments or others to see an immediate return on their investment.

The design of the structures is open, airy and spacious, fully deploying the island environment, with the finest quality construction and finishing available. Partnering with two of Aruba's top providers of kitchens and bathrooms enables developers to offer custom options for clients, so buyers can individualize their

for investors to tap for renters either short or long term. Property exchange for a vacation in another destination will also be available. Gold Coast's own rental services have also proven highly successful in assisting owners in renting their villas; 24-hour security and maintenance services also tip the scales when it is time to make a decision. Aside from all this, housekeeping, babysitting and catering services are also available for community members as well as airport pick-up and drop-off and preshopping services so cup boards and refrigerators are stocked upon arrival, which can all be arranged through their home management department.

Visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com for more details and availability or call 586-2200 to arrange a personal tour.



Stripey plants are the bees' knees



A bumblebee collects pollen of cherry blossom.

PARIS (AFP) - Gardeners can help the bumblebee, an insect that is badly threatened in many countries, by growing red flowers or flowers with stripes along their veins, according to a new study.

British scientists made the discovery after watching bumblebees forage for their food on a plot of snapdragons (Antirrhinum), a popular garden plant that comes in a variety of strains.

Bees overwhelmingly chose to visit red flowers or flowers with striped veins, compared with white and pink flowers, the investigators found.

"Stripes provide a visual guide for pollinators, directing them to the central landing platform and the entrance to the flower where the nectar and pollen can be found," said Cathie Martin, a scientist at Britain's John Innes Centre.

The study appears in a British journal, New Phytologist.

Bumblebees, like their cousins the honey bees, play a vital but often unseen role in agriculture by pollinating plants and trees. By some estimates, the bees carry out work worth more than 200 billion dollars a year. Bee colonies in many countries have been devastated by a wide but poorly understood range of causes. Habitat loss, pesticides, viruses and fungus are among the mooted culprits.

Smell, close your eyes, remember: chefs teach kids to taste

PARIS (AFP) - Chef Frederic Simonin dangles a fragrant green bunch of dill in front of a classroom of schoolkids in a multi-ethnic corner of Paris: "And what about this? Any idea what it is?"

"Parsley! Rosemary! Basil! Thyme! I know -- it's coriander," yell the excited eight and nine year olds who were treated to a sensory masterclass from the young chef as part of the annual French culinary festival, the "Week of Taste".

Lesson one: learning to taste is hard work.

Leo and Gabriel pull faces as they take turns sniffing at a handful of fresh rosemary: "Ooh, that one smells strong," is one verdict. "I know that -- but what is it called?" is another.



gether four little tasting glasses to represent sweet, salt, acidity and bitterness.

Then the first glass: grapefruit jelly sprinkled with little translucent dice. "Turnip," rules Gabriel. "Radish," and cooked foods, before the winner of the day emerges, without great surprise, in the form of a moreish sweet caramel mousse.

Exotic flavours were on

the list too, like pineapple sage -- an intriguing Latin American herb with a subtly sweet aroma -- or from Asia, lemongrass and galangal. Chefs have a role to play

Chefs have a role to play -- we have to give back some of what we received, so traditions can survive," Simonin explained to AFP afterwards.

"You have to educate kids when they're little, so they can grow up with these memories and hand them down in turn."

A herb laid on a plate by a chef just before serving up "is like the last kiss your parents plant on your forehead before you leave for school," Petitrenaud told his spellbound young audience.

"It's a way of catching a food-lover's attention. Because to be a real 'gourmand' you must learn to pay attention to how taste makes you



Children are seen participating in the 21rd semaine du Gout.

"Then smell again and close your eyes," Simonin tells the little boy. "And remember that it is rosemary."

Slowly he spells out the unfamiliar name for the kids to scribble it down.

For starters he whipped to-

counters Leo. Correct. Acidity fares a little better: redcurrants on an apple compote, flavoured with lemon and vanilla.

Salt -- cubes of raw salmon -- sparks a fierce debate between partisans of raw

The unexpected rebirth of a Saxon village in Romania

VISCRI (AFP) - It could have been the end of the centuries-old village of Viscri in the hills of Transylvania when almost all its inhabitants, Saxons of German origin, left in 1989 at the collapse of communism.

After all, how could such a small village survive in the poor and remote Romanian countryside?

But Romanians -- Roma Gypsies as well as non Roma -- have breathed new life into the picturesque village.

Last year more than 11,000 tourists from around the world came to see Viscri's pastel-coloured houses and its fortified church, a UN-ESCO World Heritage site. Even Britain's Prince Charles has bought a house there.

"We are proud of the re-



Gheorghe Lascu, 47, gestures next to his artisanal brickoven which "cooks" traditional bricks and tiles used to renovate old Saxon buildings throughout the region, in Viscri

birth because after the departure of the Saxons, their traditional farm houses lay derelict," said Caroline Fernolend, one of the few members of the German minority who stayed behind."

Then some Romanian

Roma families who had been living outside the village in wooden houses moved in," "I am very proud of what we do," he said, watching over a fire warming the kiln in which his latest bricks and tiles were being "cooked".

Gheorghe and his wife Dorina mould every tile and brick themselves.

They use clay from the neighbourhood, which English experts had tested and identified as the most suitable raw material.

"At the beginning, we started to rent only one room. Now we have three," said Maria Panait, who with her husband renovated a house in the centre of the village.

"We have a lot of tourists from abroad. They usually like traditional food and organic cheese from our sheep," she said. The Gabor brothers, Matei, 32, and Istvan, 28, also took up their grandfather's craft.

"We here, we are proud to know that our iron works are used in the fortified Saxon church of Viscri," Istvan said.

A French crackdown on Roma, which the French government has linked to crime, has highlighted problems afflicting the community including prejudice, poverty, housing segregation and education and labour market barriers

"Here it does not matter if you are Romanian Roma, Hungarian, German or something else. We consider ourselves human beings first," he told AFP.

Prince Edward closes Commonwealth Games



Britain's Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex (L) addresses the XIX Commonwealth Games closing ceremony at Jawarharlal Nehru Stadium in New Delhi

The curtain fell on the Commonwealth Games in New Delhi on Thursday evening with a closing ceremony that celebrated the end of 11 days of sport with a mix of relief and jubilation.

In the Jawaharlal Nehru stadium, a two-and-a-half hour show of dance, music and fireworks gave the finishing sparkle to an event that survived rocky preparations and daily operational hic-

With many Indians pointing out that pessimistic international expectations had been proved wrong, organisers said their decision to hold the Games in fast-developing India was a major gamble that had paid off.

Unfinished athletes' accommodation, security fears, big-name withdrawals and poor ticket sales were among a myriad of difficulties that got the Games off to an uncertain start.

But the occasion closed on a high after Indian athletes performed beyond all expectations to finish second in the overall medals table, sneaking ahead of England with a badminton gold late on



ing ceremony

Thursday.

Attendances at most venues improved dramatically, no militant attack materialised, and glitches over transport, and a stomach bug among swimmers were all overcome.

The closing ceremony was attended by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, Britain's Prince Edward, and Suresh Kalmadi -- the chairman of the organising committee cism about the Games.

was finally filled with a packed and noisy crowd, and ten wrestling golds.

Doubts over the long-term

who bore much of the criti-India's sporting highlights included gold for the women's 4x400m relay team in the main stadium which



prospects for the Commonwealth Games -- the third largest multi-sport event in the world after the Summer Olympics and the Asian Games -- were brushed aside as the event closed.

The next Games will be held in Glasgow, Scotland, in 2014 where organisers will focus on solving Delhi's struggle to attract many world-class stars.

Glasgow may also balk at matching the cost of the Delhi extravaganza, which is thought to have cost up to six billion dollars.

The Games, in which 71 nations, nearly all from the former British Empire, compete, remains an unusual blend of popular sports such as athletics and lesser known ones such as lawn bowls and netball.

Australia led the medals' table by a distance with 74 golds to India's 38 and England's 37. It also provided the stars of the Games with Alicia Coutts winning five golds in the pool and swimmer Leisel Jones collecting the tenth Commonwealth gold of her career.



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Melzer defeats Nadal in Shanghai surprise



SHANGHAI (AFP) - World number one Rafael Nadal was on Thursday dumped out of the 3.24-million-dollar Shanghai Masters in the third round by Austrian 13th seed Jurgen Melzer (pictured).

It was only the ninth defeat of the season for the Spaniard, who came into this tournament on the heels of victory in the Japan Open last week.

It was also the first time since the 2009 French Open that he has failed to progress further than the third round: in the 21 tournaments since then, Nadal has reached at least the quarter-final stage.

Despite never having taken a set off Nadal in their three previous encounters, Melzer stormed the first set here, winning 6-1.

Nadal claimed the second, 6-3, but the Austrian ranked 12th in the world rankings. took the third, decisive set 6-3 to set up a quarter-final against either Juan Monaco or Mischa Zverev.

Three straight weeks of play in Asia capped an exhausting year for Nadal, winner of seven titles including Tokyo last weekend and the last three grand slams.

Nadal takes a pause standing 67-9 on the season and will headline at the eight-man season finals in London from November 21.

Melzer handed Nadal his first 6-1 losing set in a year. The top seed bounced back to take the second but the Austrian recovered in the third, earning a break for 4-2.

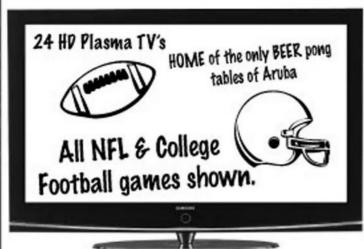
He kept Nadal under pressure a game later, as the world number one saved three match points to hold on for 3-5. But Melzer held his nerve to serve out victory a

Roger Federer, seeded third, was completing third round play against Andreas Seppi, who has never beaten him.

Andy Murray became the fourth man to qualify for the season's final event as he defeated Jeremy Chardy 6-3 6-4 to reach the quarter-finals.

Fellow London qualifier and world number two Novak Djokovic continued his red-hot form, with the two-time Beijing champion hammering Richard Gasquet 6-1, 6-1.

Murray, Djokovic, Nadal and Federer will now be among the eight players in the London finals.



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All eyes on A-Rod in Yankees-Rangers showdown

NEW YORK (AFP) - Yankees slugger Alex Rodriguez insists the American League Championship Series with Texas is strictly business, but the Rangers and their fans might feel otherwise.

"No emotion, just that we have four games to win. That's our goal," Rodriguez said of the bestof-seven series that will send one team to the World Series.

But Rodriguez' history in Texas, where he was awarded a record-breaking 252 million-dollar contract prior to the 2001 season but never managed to lead the team to the playoffs - will surely resonate with Rangers fans.

Texas have never won the World Series, losing to the Yankees in the first round of the playoffs in 1996, 1998 and 1999.

They wrapped up their first postseason series victory by beating Tampa Bay 5-1 on Tuesday night in the deciding game five of the first round.

They had punched their playoff ticket with their first division title in 11 years and host game one of the ALCS on Friday.

In the Yankees they'll face the team that has won more World Series titles than any other - a tally that climbed to 27 with their triumph last

The Yankees stumbled to a 9-17 regular-season finish to lose the AL East division title to Tampa Bay. But the AL wild-cards still had the third-best record in baseball at 95-67.

In their 15th postseason in 16 years, the Yankees are trying to become the first team to win back-to-back World



Series titles since they won three straight from 1998-2000

A victory would be a tribute to longtime owner George Steinbrenner, who died in July.

"We feel like we can play baseball with anyone," Rangers manager Ron Washington said. "We only can blaze our own trail right now, and every time we do something that's good, it adds to the history of the Texas Rangers."

New York and Texas split eight regular-season meetings, but Texas won four of five at home thanks to a three-game sweep last month.

"The three games we played them here in September proved that we could play Yankees' Alex Rodriguez with those guys," Washington said.

Mark Teixeira is another Yankees player with ties to

Texas. He broke into the big leagues with the Rangers in 2003.

"I loved playing there,

loved living there," Teixeira said. "I have a lot of friends I'm going to see in Texas. We'll probably go to dinner tomorrow night. And a lot of tickets to give away, too."

Rodriguez said the Rangers' game-five victory over the Rays was a prime example of their aggressive offensive style.

"As you saw last night in the first five innings, they stole three runs," he said. "They do a very good job of attacking."

The Rangers also boast a key defensive weapon in pitching ace Cliff Lee, who will start game three of the series and could then be available for a winner-takeall game seven.

Left-hander C.J. Wilson will start game one for the Rangers against Yankees hurler CC Sabathia.

MLB Championship Series

AMERICAN LEAGUE

NY YANKEES vs. TEXAS

OCT 15 - GM 1 NYY @ TEX OCT 16 - GM2 NYY @ TEX OCT 18 - GM 3 TEX @ NYY OCT-19 - GM 4 TEX @ NYY OCT 20 - * GM 5 TEX @ NYY OCT 22 - * GM 6 NYY @ TEX

OCT 23 - * GM 7 NYY @ TEX

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NATIONAL LEAGUE

SAN FRANCISCO vs PHILADELPHIA

OCT 16 - GM 1 SF @ PHIL OCT 17 - GM 2 SF @ PHIL OCT 19 GM 3 PHIL @ SF OCT 20 - GM 4 PHIL @ SF OCT 21 - * GM 5 PHI @ SF OCT 23 - *GM 6 SF @ PHIL OCT 24 - *GM 7 SF @ PHIL

DIVISION SERIES (BEST-OF-SEVEN)

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Liverpool ownership fight heads for Texas court

LONDON (AFP) - Liverpool's ownership battle went into injury time on Thursday as Tom Hicks and George Gillett lost a High Court ruling in London but carried the fight to a Texas court room and a Friday hearing.

The ruling increases the likelihood that the 18-time English champions will be sold to New England Sports Ventures (NSEV), owners of

US Major League Baseball's Boston Red Sox, but the legal fight is far from finished.

American businessmen Hicks and Gillett suffered a setback on Thursday when the London court ruled their attempt to use a US court to block the sale of the club to NESV was invalid.

Judge Christopher Floyd strongly condemned their actions of obtaining an injunction in a court in Texas on Wednesday, saying their conduct had been "unconscionable".

Floyd granted anti-suit injunctions in a bid to nullify decisions taken by Texas District Court judge Jim Jordan in Dallas, imposing a 1500GMT Friday deadline on Hicks and Gillett to withdraw their case in Texas.

Floyd stressed he had given a ruling in London on Wednesday that meant the English directors of Liverpool could agree a 300 million pound (480 million dollar) takeover by NESV.

But before Liverpool's board could make any decision, Hicks and Gillett secured a temporary restraining order from Jordan, forcing more court hearings.

A hearing in Dallas later on Thursday saw NESV request the restraining order be lifted while Gillett and Hicks pushed for contempt of court findings against Liverpool directors and NESV.

Jordan booked a hearing for 7 a.m. on Friday in Dallas, only three hours before the London court deadline, to consider the matter.

David Chivers, a lawyer for NESV, told the High Court that his clients already considered themselves the new owners of Liverpool.

Time is pressing because Friday is the deadline for the repayment of a 200-million-pound loan made to Hicks and Gillett by the Royal Bank of Scotland.

Chivers said that if the deal was not completed on Friday, then Hicks and Gillett would have succeeded in stopping the sale of Liverpool before repayment of the debt became due.

That could see the Premier League impose a nine-point penalty on Liverpool for financial issues, one that could doom them to relegation from the elite football level in England and potentially scuttle the deal.

Jordan had originally planned his hearing on the temporary restraining order for October 27 but moved the date forward due to the deadline issues involved.

Meanwhile, another potential buyer, Singaporean billionaire Peter Lim, withdrew his 320-million-pound

offer.

Lim said the board appeared determined to sell to NESV "to the exclusion of all other parties, regardless of the merits of their bids".

"In these circumstances, I am not able to proceed with my intention to acquire the club," Lim added in a statement.

The basis of the American owners' legal moves is their belief that the club is being undersold. They value the club at 600 million pounds and would lose about 140 million pounds if NESV's deal went ahead.



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